(c) A Court of Enquiry has been ordered into the accident, which is in progress.

Construction of Atomic Power Plants

1553. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many developed and developing countries of the world have of late started discouraging the construction work of atomic projects in their countries;

(b) if so, what is the detailed information in this regard;

(c) whether Government are also considering to bring a change in the policy in this direction; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) There is a general trend in reduced ordering of nuclear power plants in certain developed countries.

(b) Each country has its own reasons such as staturation in demand, public opposition, aftermath of Chernobyl, nonavailability of funds, tighter regulatory measures or easy access to coal, oil or hydroelectric power.

(c) and (d) Nuclear power constitutes at present a small percentage (3%) of the total electricity production of the country and in a large country like India where coal is available only in certain regions an optimal mix of thermal, hydro and nuclear power is needed for proper planning of generation of electricity in an economical manner.

Report of the Committee on ASLV

1554. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the Report of the Committee on fault analysis of ASLV; and

(b) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The Report of the Committees on fault analysis of ASLV are yet to be received and the actions to be taken will depend upon the Committees' recommendation and further analysis.

Couples protected by Family Planning Methods

1555. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of couples in the reproductive age group protected by family planning methods has reached an all time high in the country during 1987-88;

(b) if so, what was the total number of couples which opted for family planning in 1987-88 and to what extent it was more in comparison to the earlier years; and

(c) what are the States where the performance of the family planning methods have improved and what are the other steps being taken to improve family planning methods further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The

total number of Family Planning acceptors were 22.50 million (provisional) during 1987-88 which is an all time high in any year since inception. The number of Family Planning acceptors during the previous three years are as follows:

Year	Family Planning acceptors (in million)
1984-85	16.44
1985-86	18.92
1986-87	20.56

(c) Four statements giving State-wise and method-wise performances and increase/decrease in 1987-88 over 1986-87 are given in Annexure (*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No. 70). To control the population of the country, the family Welfare Programme has been adopting a strategy which including the following steps:

i. Provision of a minimum of service delivery infrastructure of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres and of Community Health Centres;

ii. Payment of compensation to acceptors and incentive payment to motivators;

iii. Promotion and supplies of temporary contraceptive methods;

iv. Intensification of the Programme for mother and Child health including universal immunisation;

v. Strengthening information, education and communication components;

vi. Increased involvement of local communities etc.

Maximum Family Pension

1556. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maximum family pension to pre-1986 pensioners has been limited to Rs. 655 per mensum, compared to Rs. 1250 per mensum for post-1985 pensioners; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this vide discrepancy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Family pension is related to the emoluments drawn at the time of retirement/death in harness. The maximum family pension upto 31-12-1985 was Rs. 250/- per mensum which after rationalisation with effect from 1-1-1986 on the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission is Rs. 655/- per mensum. This is admissible to the families of employees who drew emoluments of Rs. 2084/- per mensum and above in the pre-revised scales of pay. The families of employees drawing the equivalent of Rs. 2084/- in the revised scales of pay are now entitled to a family pension upto Rs. 709 per mensum.

The family pension entitlement with reference to the post—1-1-1986 pensioners is based upon the revised scales of pay. In view of the upward revision of the pay scales, family pension now ranges between Rs. 375/- and Rs. 1250 per mensum. However, the maximum entitlement of Rs. 1250 is admissible only for the families of a very few officers in receipt of the highest pay under the Government. There is no wide variation in the family pension entitlements among comparable pre—1-1-1986 and post—1-1-1986 cases for a large majority of pensioners.

Antibiotics for Treatment of trachoma

1557. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4237 given in the